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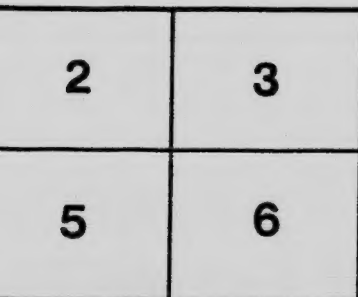
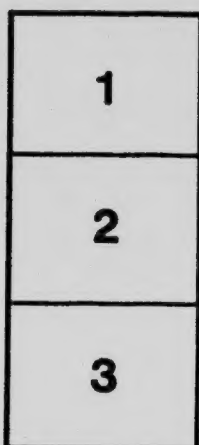
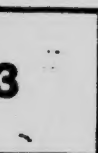
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Circular No. 9

The Manitoba Agricultural College

Winnipeg, Manitoba

POULTRY DEPARTMENT

Practical Hints on Housing, Feeding, Diseases, etc., of Poultry

BREEDS OF POULTRY FOR THE FARM

General Purpose Breeds of Hens suitable for the farm:—

Any variety of Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Orpingtons, or Rhode Island Reds.

Egg-breeds:—

Any variety of Leghorns, Minorcas, Hamburgs, or Anconas.

Ducks:—

Best all-round breed of Ducks for the farm is the Pekin; Indian Runners are the best layers.

Geese:—

Either Embden or Toulouse.

Turkeys:—

The Mammoth Bronze is the best.

HOUSES

The Poultry House should be well lighted, dry, have plenty of fresh air, well-ventilated and free from draught. A straw loft, and a cotton front in a hen house give a steady circulation of fresh air and helps to keep the house dry. Allow from four to six feet of floor space for each hen.

Raise your chickens on new ground every year. Use portable colony houses made out of piano boxes. They are cheap, but very durable and efficient. Fifty chickens can be raised in one of these houses.

FEEDING

Ration for Laying Hens:—

Wheat, a little barley scattered in straw, crushed oats fed in a hopper, buttermilk to drink. Green food: cabbage, mangels or turnips, clover or alfalfa hay. Grit or sand, and oyster shell. Give as much variety as possible.

Ration for Chicks and Growing Stock:—

Chick food, wheat, pin-head oatmeal. After four weeks drop the oatmeal and chick-food, and feed hulled oats and cracked corn, if available. Start feeding dry mash the first day. Equal parts of corn meal, low grade flour, Victor oat feed and bran make a good mash. Add to this five per cent of beef scrap, two per cent of bone meal and two per cent of ground charcoal. Hopper feed grain and dry mash after chicks are four weeks old. Vary ration occasionally. Give butter milk to drink. Grass, clover, alfalfa, or oats make a good green food. Provide coarse sand for grit.

Ration for Fattening Chickens:—

Mix of two parts finely ground oats with the hulls sifted out, one part corn meal, one part low grade flour. Mix with buttermilk to make a thin batter. Feed lightly first week and after that all they will eat up clean in twenty minutes. Fatten three weeks. Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Orpingtons, or Rhode Island Reds, or their crosses, make the best cockerels for crate fattening. Fatten them when they are three and a half to four and a half months old.

Ration for Breeding Ducks:—

Whole grain; wheat, barley and oats mix with a mash made of two parts of bran, one of corn meal and one of low grade flour. Add ten per cent of beef scrap and some grit and oyster shell. Give plenty of green food such as clover, alfalfa, or sprouted oats.

Ration for Growing Ducks:—

Mash made of equal parts of corn meal, low-grade flour and bran, five per cent of beef scrap and a little grit. Mix with it finely cut green food. To fatten, increase corn meal and beef scrap in the ration. Market the ducks at ten to twelve weeks of age.

Rations for Geese:—

Similar to those for Ducks. They require more range than ducks.

Ration for Growing Turkeys:—

First feed bread soaked in milk. Add shorts the second day, also add finely cut dandelion leaves or onion tops. Add a little charcoal and grit to the mash. After five days change the mash, leaving out the bread and use only shorts. Feed five times a day for the first few weeks. Give milk to drink if available. Start them on whole grain (preferably wheat) as early as possible. After first week allow plenty of range and after four weeks let them run at large.

DISEASES

The most important diseases:—Roup, Tuberculosis, Blackhead.

Roup:—

Symptoms:—Swollen eyes, running nose, cough, dull, sickly appearance. Affects both old and young stock in both chickens and turkeys. Cure and preventive. Kill all badly affected birds. Wash heads of sickly birds in a one per cent solution of carbolic acid. Put carbolic acid, or potassium permanganate in the drinking water to prevent further spread. Give flock one pound of Epsom Salts for every hundred hens. Separate the sick from the healthy birds.

Tuberculosis:—

Symptoms:—Loose flesh, pale comb, lame in one leg. Post-mortem: Raised spots on liver, also inflamed. Attacks only mature hens and turkeys. No cure. Preventive:—Kill and burn diseased birds, clean and whitewash hen house with hot whitewash and five per cent carbolic acid. Sprinkle an abundance of air slaked lime on floors, under roosts, and around Poultry house.

Blackhead:—

Symptoms:—Drooping wings, dull sickly appearance, diarrhoea. Postmortem:—Black head, sunken spots on liver, swollen caeca. Affects

chicks and is a very common disease in young turkeys. No cure. Raise birds in new ground. Cultivate and lime the old ground. Crop it for a few years. Feed birds out of troughs or pans.

EGG PRESERVATIVES

No. 1

Waterglass solution. Eight parts of water, previously boiled, and one part of Waterglass. Allow to cool. Place eggs in large crock and cover with solution. Eggs will keep indefinitely.

No. 2

Lime and Salt Solution. Two Pounds of fresh slaked lime, one pint of salt, four gallons water. Stir and let settle. Stir again and take clean liquid only. A very good preservative.

MARKETING EGGS AND DRESSED POULTRY

Market Eggs

During the months of June, July, August and September, there is an enormous loss or waste on our markets, in dirty, mouldy, stale, heated and rotten eggs. It is estimated that two eggs out of every dozen placed on the market during these months, are unfit for human food. The cause is a general neglect in gathering the eggs, and loose methods of handling and marketing them. The remedy lies in removing the male birds after the hatching season is over, breaking up the broody hens, and gathering the eggs regularly. Candle all eggs, clean dirties, grade as to color and size, keep cool, market regularly.

Market Poultry

Crate fatten all you Cockerels before marketing. It improves the quality and appearance of all dressed chickens. Better goods—higher prices.

Further information may be obtained by writing for our Bulletin "Farm Poultry in Manitoba." It is free for the asking.

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